(c) The details of earnings made by State Pavillions and their utilisation are not maintained, separately by ITPO.

(d) The Railway's share of earnings from the sale of tickets was Rs. 7,42,946 only.

(e) The Railways earnings from the special parking lots made at Safdarjung, Patel Nagar and Brar Square was Rs. 7,308/- only.

(f) The earnings are part of overall Railway earnings.

Decline in Exports

1580. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline of 17 per cent in export, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to take to boost up the export and compete in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a decline in the month of May, 1998;

(b) The exports have been affected due to a general slow down in world trade, expecially recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan & Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers faced in markets of European Union;

(c) A number of steps have already been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplificaiton of procedures, and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign Trade has also been set up to review export performance.

Trade Relations with China

1581. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the action taken to maintain trade relations with China vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): Maintaining the trade relations with China is a continuous effort. The relationship is based on the bilateral trade agreement between the two nations. Joint Groups on Economic relations and trade, Science and Technology, besides Working Groups on Coal and Steel established at the Government level meet periodically. Meeting of the Indo-China Joint Business Council help promote close ties between entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Awareness of each others' capabilities and achievements in various industrial and technological spheres is gained through increased participation in trade fairs and exhibitions held in the respective countries. The first India Technological Exhibition was organized in Beijing in 1997. A Chinese Commodities Fair was organised in New Delhi in December, 1997, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic cooperation. A trade delegation from India participated in the recently held International Chemical Industry Fair, 1998, held in September, 1998, in Beijing. Another high level Official-cum-trade delegation from the Soyabean Processors Association of India visited China in September, 1998 for promoting exports of India soyameal to China.

India now figures among the top twenty trading partners of China and is China's largest trading partner in South Asia

Action Against Export Defaulters

1582. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against the export defaulters for not fulfilling their export obligations; and

(b) the loss to the exchequer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Action against defaulter under advance licensing, EPCG and other export schemes where export obligation is prescribed is taken under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 of Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 (for cases prior to 1992 and Rules and Orders made thereunder.

In cases of fraud, wilful misrepresentation etc. the cases are dealt with for imposition of fiscal penalties, debarment from import of goods, cancellation of lincences/registration certificates/Importers-Exporters Code Number. The customs Authorities also initiate Adjudication proceedings in such cases under the Customs Act, 1962 and other related legal enforcement provisions.

The bonafide default cases, are regularised in terms of the provisions of the Exim Policy on payment of Customs Duty along with interest thereon and surrender of SIL of appropriate value on the unutilised quanity/value of the imports made by such exporters.

(b) Loss to the exchequer can be said to accrue only in cases where imports have been made at concessional or nil duty in exchange for a commitment, for export-Recovery proceedings in such cases are at various stages and the position keeps changing.

Export Processing Zones in the Country

1583. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Export Processing Zones set up in the country (State-wise);

(b) the location of these Export Processing Zones;

(c) how many of them are in joint sector;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to set up new Export Processing Zones in the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have been set up by the Government at Kandla (Gujarat), Santa Cruz, Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). In addition, four EPZs (i) three in the private sector at Surat (Gujarat), Kandivli (E), Mumbai, Singidivakam Village, Kancheepuram Taluk (Tamil Nadu) and (ii) one EPZ at Greater Noida (UP) in the State sector, have been approved for establishment of which the EPZ at Surat has become funtcional No. EPZ has been set up in Joint sector.

(d) and (e) No proposal for establishment of any new EPZ has been included in the Ninth Plan. However, setting up of an EPZ in the North Eastern region is under examination in consultation with Planning Commission.

लघु उद्योग के लिए आरक्षित मदों का आयात

1584. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने विश्व व्यापार संगठन के दबाव में आकर आरक्षित श्रेणी की 830 मदों में से 600 मदों के आयात की अनुमति दे दी है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन 600 मदों में से अधिकांश का उत्पादन लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र में किया जा रहा था और इस प्रकार इससे लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र में उनके उत्पादन पर तथा साथ ही इसके द्वारा उत्पन्न किए जाने वाले नौकरियों के अवसरों पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है,

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या लघु उद्योग इस प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना कर पाए हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो सरकार द्वारा उन्हें इस प्रकार की प्रतिस्पर्धा की सामना कर पाने के लिए सक्षम बनाने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?